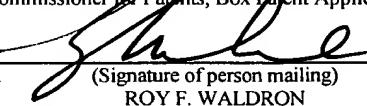


"EXPRESS MAIL" LABEL NO. EL 162 814 379 US, Date of Deposit: January 3, 2001. I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, D.C. 20231.
By


(Signature of person mailing)
ROY F. WALDRON

(Typed or printed name of person)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: F. Ito et al.

: Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

APPLICATION NO.: Not Yet Assigned

: Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

FILING DATE: Concurrently Herewith

:

TITLE: BENZIMIDAZOLE COMPOUNDS AS
ORL1-RECEPTOR AGONISTS

:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir: PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, Applicants request entry of the following amendment:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, line 2, please insert the following text: --This application claims the benefit
of U.S. provisional patent application Ser. No. 60/174,542, filed January 5, 2000. --

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the specification to include priority data as required by
37 C.F.R. § 1.78. This amendment adds no new matter to the present application. A
favorable response is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/3/2001


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